(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Pak Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Hydel Power Plant by China on Sutlej River

2926. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has built a Hydel Power plant on Sutlej River near the Indo-Tibetan border which has been shown by the Indian Satellite;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of this dangerous act; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government have noted that the spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in response to a report in an Indian newspaper about China building a barrage on the River Sutlej in Tibet, has reportedly stated as follows: "In recent years, the Chinese side has constructed a small-scale hydropower station on the Langqinzangbu (Sutlej River) at Zhada County in the Tibet Autonomous Region, to satisfy the daily electricity needs of local population. Chinese Government has always adhered to the basic principle of fair and reasonable development and utilization of trans-boundary rivers. During this process of development and utilization, Chinese Government fully considers the impact on lower reaches. The Ministries of Water Resources of China and India have always maintained good cooperation. In 2005, both sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding on provision of hydrological information during the flood season on the Langqinzangbu/Sutlej River by the Chinese side to the Indian side. This has played a positive role in flood-control safety in downstream areas."

(c) Government remain vigilant in monitoring developments, which have a bearing on the national interests of India, and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard these interests.